OIPE
FEB 17 2004
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

REMARKS

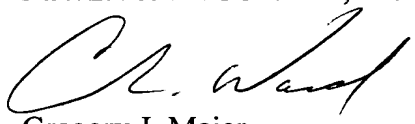
Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 9, and 17 having been amended by way of the present Preliminary Amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable consideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number
22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

GJM:CDW:brf
I:\atty\cdw\242459US3 CONT\Preliminary Amendment.doc